

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated October 23, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Applicants have corrected the paragraph numbering to correspond to the paragraph numbering of the specification as filed. Applicants have not represented the amendments made to the claims in the Amendment submitted September 25, 2003, with the understanding that only the corrected paragraph numbering of the amendments to the specification is necessary to respond to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

Applicants respectfully request that the application is now in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

It is not believed that an extension of time and/or additional fee(s)-including fees for net addition of claims-are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully Submitted,

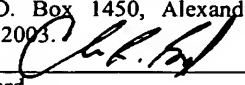


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 28, 2003.


Clara R. Beard